



ARIZONA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Commission Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DES Director's Conference Room

1717 W Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Michael Traylor, Co-Chair, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Clarence H. Carter, Co-Chair, Department of Economic Security (DES); Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW); Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM); Jenifer Thornton, City of Sierra Vista; Karen Hellman (Sitting in for Charles Ryan), Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS); Mary Murphy (Alternate), Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF); Sean Price (Alternate), Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (AZDVS); and Terri Leveton, Nova Safe Haven.

Commissioners Absent:

Charles Ryan, ADC; David Sherman, The Salvation Army, White Mountain Outpost; Frank Migali, Department of Education (ADE); Robert Halliday, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS); Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation (ABC); Ted Vogt, AZDVS and Will Humble, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

Staff Present:

Melanie Starns, DES; Lynn Larson, DES; Raoul Sada, DES; Donna Bleyle, DES; Amy Schwabenlender, VSUV; Danelle Valenzuela, ADHS; Margaret Kilman, DES and Priscilla Cruz, DES.

Guests Present:

David Bridge, Human Services Campus; Mike McQuaid, Human Services Campus; Joan Serviss, Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness and Dale Iverson, Arizona Housing Alliance

Welcome and Introductions:

Co-Chair Traylor called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes:

Co-Chair Carter called for a motion to approve the Tuesday, March 19, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Thornton requested one edit to the minutes. The motion was approved, with one change and passed by Commissioners in attendance.

Committee Reports

Housing Committee: Co-Chair Traylor reported on this committee stating the Permanent Housing Locator Tool is up and running. Co-Chair Traylor then gave the floor over to Joan Serviss of the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness to update the committee further. Ms. Serviss reported that currently there are approximately 200 case managers and housing specialist registered with the tool. Joan stated that the coalition has presented the tool at the Balance of State Continuum of Care, Tucson Pima Collaboration to end Homelessness (TPCH), Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Continuum of Care and about half a dozen other community meetings; basically educating housing

specialist and case managers on the functions and goals of the tool. Ms. Serviss also reported the coalition has done webinars of the tool with overwhelming thumbs-up feedback.

Co-Chair Traylor then reported we are working with the coalition to evolve the tool further in order to figure out a way of letting the case worker not only know which properties have availabilities but to also know the availability of units within any given property. Co-Chair Traylor thanked the coalition for all their assistance.

Homeless Services Committee: Commissioner Newsom reported on this committee stating that due to all of the technical assistance being received from MAG for coordinated intake assessment, they have narrowed down several assessment tools to one named Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT). This tool has been utilized in about 100 communities with great success. The tool is a comprehensive high level assessment system with modifications for individuals or families requiring housing interventions. The tool provides a number score that enables the case worker to identify the extent of vulnerability of the individual or family. This score allows individuals or families to be ranked by order of vulnerability enabling case workers to target resources for those who require them the most. This tool has been clinically validated for best practice by the continuum and has also been tested for user friendliness with better outcomes. Commissioner Newsome informed the network Pima County is also considering utilizing the tool.

UMOM anticipates piloting the tool internally via several of their agencies in August. Commissioner Newsome stated she will have a more detailed assessment of the tool at the next ACHH meeting by having had a chance to have utilized it. Commissioner Newsome would also like to demonstrate the tool at the next meeting and offer training. Co-Chair Carter expressed his interest in the tool for use as the State's individual assessment tool. He then requested additional information from Commissioner Newsome. Commissioner Newsome informed Co-Chair Carter that Melanie Starns can contact Mattie Lord of UMOM for the additional information required.

Data Management Committee: Donna Bleyle reported on this committee stating that currently the Continuums of Care are trying to initiate a way to attain common data for meeting HUD reporting requirements. The continuums are currently cataloging all of their standard reports, then taking that data and matching it to the data needed for current HEARTH Act requirements. Ms. Bleyle also informed the network that at the next official Continuum of Care Sub-Committee meeting they will discuss the steps the continuums are taking to standardize their incoming data reports thereby making it easier to comply with current HUD reporting requirements.

Co-Chair Traylor re-iterated the need for Arizona to report common numbers throughout the State, stating that we are about 85 percent there and working on the last 15 percent.

Plans and Opportunities on the Human Services Campus Presentation:

David Bridge began the presentation by giving some opening background comments on the Human Services Campus. David stated the campus is a ten acre facility serving about 1,100 individuals per day. The Campus opened in 2005 and is in its eighth year of operation. The Campus offers a full continuum of emergency services, focusing on basic needs; food, shelter, medical, substance abuse support and behavioral health assistance. The key founding partners of the campus are Central

Arizona Shelter Services, Saint Vincent de Paul, Maricopa County Health Care for the Homeless, NOVA – Safe Haven Program, St. Joseph the Worker and the Loadstar Day Resource Center. In addition, at any given time there are anywhere from fifteen to twenty collaborative partners working on the Campus. The mission of the Campus is to use the power of collaboration to create solutions to end homelessness.

One of the initiatives of the Campus is prioritization; by using an assessment tool from Seattle called the Housing Eligibility Assessment Referral Tool (HEART) the Campus has created a process that their partners follow to reach individuals who need assistance. By utilizing the scores generated from the HEART tool they can determine the eligibility of an individual. The Campus holds bi-weekly meetings where all of the partners go through the listing of possible candidates who have scored 25 or higher on their assessment. The partners then go down the list to place the individuals from the top of the list into permanent housing or into the program best meeting their needs based on the HEART assistance. There is also an appeals process, should an individual score lower than 25, this appeals process assesses the individual for mitigating circumstances which may upgrade their scored level in order to receive services. The Campus is now looking into utilizing the SPDAT tool for their assessment process. They are also working on getting all partners to utilize the HMIS system with the ultimate goal being to end homelessness.

The Campus's current goal is to have a main commonality of experience. Currently, there is no coordination of an individual coming onto the Campus. When individuals enter the Campus for assistance they don't much care which office they go to, they are just looking to have their needs met, so they go from agency to agency seeking assistance. Currently each different agency has its focus on their specific type of assistance, the Campus is trying to unite the partners in order to route each individual to the proper agency at the onset of their arrival. The Campus is striving to meet the needs of the constituent in as seamless a manner as possible. To that end, the Campus is creating a Welcome Center which will focus on first assessing the individuals' needs, then moving them forward towards the required assistance. In this manner, the Campus feels they will better serve the public and further assist them attaining self-sufficiency and independence. The intent of the Welcome Center is to focus on having a much more intentional approach to each individuals required needs. The estimated completion date for the Welcome Center is sometime in 2014. The ultimate goal is that Welcome should not mean 'Welcome to Homelessness', but, should mean 'Welcome to the End of Homelessness'!

Studies and Surveys Committee – Summer Survey:

Commissioner Spicker reported on this committee stating that the Morrison Institute survey, which was supplied to the commissioners in draft form only, has some very good informational value. The next step is to bring together the studies and survey committee to refine the survey results by drawing high level context from it. Commissioner Spicker stated once this is done he will look to distributing the finalized version, and requested that the committee read the survey and issue any comments to him by August 1, 2013. Commissioner Spicker asked that the Draft study not be distributed outside the Commission until it has been finalized.

Announcements:

- Sean Price announced the Veteran's Services has received three current SSVF grants and has received an additional four new SSVF grants. These grants will serve about 2,160 veterans.
- Amy Schwabenlender announced there will be a Project Connect event on Thursday, July 18, 2013 in Tempe.
- Co-Chair Carter announced the launch of his demonstration project in October.

Future Agenda Items:

- Commissioner Newsome requested that we have more discussion at our next meeting concerning assessment. She would also like to talk about all the initiatives currently going around about homelessness and housing.
- A presentation from the Morrison Institute should be scheduled for the next ACHH meeting.

Call To The Public:

No comments were issued at this time.

Next Meeting:

The next ACHH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2013.

Adjourn:

Co-Chair Carter inquired if there were any further discussion items, none were issued. Co-Chair Carter then adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.